4. The Chairman, Balwantrai Mehta Panchayati Raj Foundation, Dr. L.M. Singhvi has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India to help establish a National Institute of Panchayati Raj Training and Research on the aforesaid land under their possession. This proposal includes a National Campus to establish training and correspondence courses, an examination system, and field research projects for providing training for Panchayati Raj officials and to disseminate literature and reports. There is also a proposal to build an Auditorium, committee rooms and transit guest house facilities for those involved in the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The financial details have not been submitted or worked out.

5. The land under consideration is being used for providing temporary accommodation to visiting Panchayat representatives and other allied personnel.

Telecasting of amusing serials

*418. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of serials telecast on Doordarshan National Channel daily dealing with the family life;

(b) the number of episodes of such serials granted for telecast and how far such serials have adverse effect on the life of common/businessman;

(c) the reasons for granting such long serials on National Channel of Doordarshan; and

(d) by when only amusing serials shall be introduced on the National Channel instead of such long and boring serials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have made available the following details of serials telecast on Doordarshan's National channel (DD-I), dealing with the family life:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	No. of episodes granted for telecast
1.	Marayada	390
2.	Zindagi Ek Safar	285
3.	Sapne Sajan Ke	390

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	No. of episodes granted for telecast
4.	Ehsaas	260
5.	Kiran	390
6.	Apne Mere Apne	260
7.	Jayein Kahan	130
8.	Sansaar	104
9.	Kyon Apne Hue Paraye	104
10.	Sanskar	26
11.	Woh Huye Ne Hamare	78
12.	Lal Kothi Alvida	52
13.	Main Banoongi Miss India	78

Prasar Bharati have informed that all programmes are previewed before telecast to ensure that they lend themselves to family viewing and thereby have no adverse effect on the life of common man. The decision to grant extension to these programmes beyond the originally approved number of episodes was taken after considering the quality of production, popularity of the programme and the revenue being earned from them.

(d) Prasar Bharati have informed that the serials telecast on Doordarshan continue to enjoy the highest viewership in all homes.

Telephone service providers in Urban and Rural areas

419. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private service providers are not interested to extend their telephone services in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to make it mandatory for all service providers to extend their services in rural areas;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the percentage of telephone services provided in urban areas as compared to rural areas during the last five years?